

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figure 1 as shown in the attached replacement sheet including that figure.

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment, Figure 1, the specification, including the abstract, and claim 1 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance in view of the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Figure 1 has been amended to include reference numbers 12 and 13 denoting the arms, as disclosed on page 7, lines 24-25.

The abstract has been amended to obviate the objection.

Claims 1 and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Radzins et al. (U.S. Patent 4,619,357). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites device for feeding packages from a packaging machine. The device comprises a first, a second, a third and a fourth package driver for transporting packages in a transportation direction from an infeed station of the device arranged to receive packages from the packaging machine to an outfeed station of the device. The drivers are arranged in pairs, so that the first and third drivers and the second and fourth drivers respectively are arranged diametrically and fixed in relation to each other about a common centre axis. The pairs of drivers are rotatable about the centre axis independently from each other.

Radzins et al. do not disclose or suggest that the transfer levers 29, 30, 31, 32 are rotatable independently from each other. As disclosed in column 3, lines 11-21, the levers 29, 30, 31, 32 are fixed to the shafts 24, 25, 26, 27, respectively, which are journaled in the plate 23. Therefore, rotation of the plate 23 (by rotation of the shaft 20) causes the transfer levers 29, 30, 31, 32 to rotate all together, not as pairs which rotate independently from each other.

Claims 7-12 recite additional features of the invention and are allowable for the same reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 and for the additional features recited therein.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 7-12 over Radzins et al. are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 14-19 are allowed and that claims 2-6 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are allowable and the entire application is in condition for allowance.

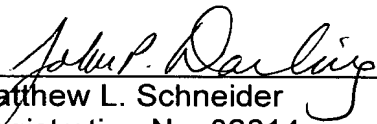
Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: February 14, 2007

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Attachment:
Replacement Sheet (Figure 1)